

thereafter packing the container in a bag.

31. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein the step of injecting ink is executed under a depressurized condition.

32. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein the step of packing the container is executed under a depressurized condition.

33. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein the container further comprises an ink supply port, and wherein prior to the step of injecting ink, the ink supply port is sealed.

34. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the ink supply port is sealed with a gas permeable and moisture impermeable film.--

Please amend claims 16, 20 and 25 as follows:

16. (Amended) A method of manufacturing an ink cartridge having an ink supply port shaped to receive an ink supply needle, having an inlet, formed in the container body, for use in an ink jet recorder, comprising the step of treating at least a portion of the ink supply port inlet with ultraviolet radiation to improve the wettability of the treated portion.

20. (Amended) A method of manufacturing an ink cartridge for use in an ink jet recorder, comprising the steps of:

providing a container body including a chamber for accommodating ink therein, and an ink supply port communicating with the chamber;

sealing the ink supply port;

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bonding a cover to the opening of the container body;
injecting ink into the chamber;
depressurizing the ink cartridge a first time;
sealing a portion of the cover after the first depressurizing step and then
depressurizing the ink cartridge a second time; and
sealing the remainder of the cover after the second depressurizing step.

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25. (Amended) A method of manufacturing an ink cartridge for use in an ink jet recorder, comprising the steps of:
providing a container including a chamber for accommodating ink therein, and an ink supply port and an ink injection port, both communicating with the chamber;
sealing the ink supply port with a gas permeable and moisture impermeable film;
injecting ink into the chamber through the ink injection port;
depressurizing the chamber;
sealing the ink injection port after depressurizing the chamber;
inserting the sealed container into a bag having an opening; and
sealing the opening of the bag in a vacuum environment.

REMARKS

Claims 16-28 and 30-34 are pending in this application. Claims 16-28 stand rejected, claims 30-34 are newly-presented, and claims 16, 20 and 25 have been amended. Claims 16-20, 25 and 30 are independent.

The proposed changes to the claims are set forth in the annexed sheet entitled "Version Marked to Show Changes Made".